



NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

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WEATHER & CROPS



Week Ending: September 4, 2011

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WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 4, 2011

Producers in eastern Virginia continued recovery efforts in the week follow Hurricane Irene. The cleanup for many consisted of assessing the damage, removing downed trees, and repairing fences to prevent livestock escape. Days suitable for fieldwork were 5.5. Corn harvest has resumed, as fields have dried down, although in some areas producers are struggling with a wind-damaged crop that has been blown down or broken. Tobacco harvest continued and many producers spent time trying to salvage their crop, which sustained some wind damage as well. Both soybeans and peanuts appear to have benefitted from the rain. Both disease and pest increases are a concern and scouting activities have continued for these crops. Additionally, late season squash, cucumbers and tomatoes all suffered from the Hurricane.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
August 7, 2011	20	38	41	1
August 14, 2011	18	35	45	2
August 21, 2011	17	31	50	2
August 28, 2011	19	28	45	8
September 4, 2011	8	24	63	5

SUBSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
August 7, 2011	16	43	40	1
August 14, 2011	18	42	40	0
August 21, 2011	18	36	45	1
August 28, 2011	22	32	45	1
September 4, 2011	10	27	59	4

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Virginia Cooperative Extension Service

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CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	10	14	34	38	4
Livestock	2	6	26	52	14
Hay, Other	8	12	37	38	5
Hay, Alfalfa	3	6	29	51	11
Corn	3	17	29	42	9
Soybeans	0	4	29	53	14
Tobacco, Flue-cured	0	5	68	26	1
Tobacco, Burley	0	4	23	70	3
Tobacco, Dark Fire-cured	0	2	83	15	0
Peanuts	0	0	65	23	12
Cotton	0	12	48	30	10
Apples, All	0	0	69	29	2
Peaches	0	5	23	68	4
Grapes	0	0	10	89	1

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Dough	94	90	96	95
Corn Dent	81	72	82	82
Corn Mature	65	41	63	57
Corn for Grain Harvested	17	1	37	12
Corn Silage Harvested	64	54	77	60
Soybeans Blooming	98	96	99	97
Soybeans Setting Pods	90	76	90	88
Soybeans Dropping Leaves	4	1	8	6
Flue-cured Tobacco Harvested	34	26	43	44
Burley Tobacco Harvested	26	20	31	26
Dark Fire-cured Tobacco Harvested	84	65	47	35
Peanuts Pegged	93	91	97	99
Cotton Setting Bolls	97	95	96	99
Cotton Bolls Opening	35	15	12	36
Summer Apples Harvested	98	65	94	94
Fall Apples Harvested	17	11	24	21
Peaches Harvested	91	82	88	94

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 4, 2011

City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base 50) 1/		Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Mar. 1 to Sept. 3	Mar. 1 to Sept. 3 normal	Last Week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	84	62	87	57	73	1	3348	3055	0.26	0.26	-0.08	23.91	-5.97
Norfolk	81	67	89	61	74	-2	3886	3363	0.00	0.00	NA	31.51	-0.97
Richmond	84	64	89	59	74	-1	3741	3303	0.00	0.00	NA	29.78	-0.60
Roanoke	87	64	93	59	76	3	3517	NA	1.73	1.72	1.35	26.81	-2.97
Wash/Dulles	81	61	85	54	71	-2	3358	NA	0.33	0.18	-0.21	25.38	-3.13

* Normal based on 1971-2000 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>. Source: USDA, NASS, Virginia Field Office.

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY

Comments are based on comments reported by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

NORTHERN

FREDERICK (Jeanette R. Smith)

We received a few showers, but dry conditions still exist. Farmers are feeding livestock.

PRINCE WILLIAM (Paige Thacker)

We are receiving much needed rain slowly. We received 2" yesterday.

CENTRAL

AMELIA (Joan D Poore)

Hurricane Irene passed through leaving minimal damage to crops and livestock. Thank goodness! Corn producers are starting to harvest corn for grain - the moisture is a little high just yet. They are anticipating a good start next week. Tobacco was blown down in some areas, but those producers seem to think it will be okay. For the most part agriculture made it better than some other areas.

CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)

Grain farmers are harvesting corn, as it dries down. Combines are active in fields all over the county. Soybeans are looking very good. Farmers are scouting for corn earworm and other problems. No major infestations have been found. Pumpkins have set fruit, and are looking good for late-September to mid-October harvest. Farmers are keeping an eye out for powdery mildew.

CHESTERFIELD (Joan D Poore)

The county survived the storm for the most part. There has been minimal flooding, but the winds twisted and stripped the leaves from some of the corn stalks. Soybeans had minimal damage, but should turn out okay. Although there are some trees down on fences in places, being without electricity seemed to be the greatest concern.

HANOVER (Jim Tate)

Cleanup from hurricane Irene dominated the week. Eastern Hanover was slammed and as of last week's report I did not know how badly. 400 to 500 acres of corn was blown down flat on the ground. Producers are still trying to figure out methods to try to salvage some of it. Falling trees were the worst offender, with flooding a close second. One producer lost half of his equipment and his house to falling trees. Trees on power lines have some still in the dark 10 days after the storm. A couple of roads are washed out.

HENRICO (Kilby D. Majette)

Hurricane Irene: there was some damage to the corn depending on the wind in certain locations. Some of the corn was blown to the ground while some other was broken about one foot below the ear. Some cotton is leaning on its side. Both conditions will make it harder to harvest the crops in the future. Soybean fared well thru the storm event.

EASTERN

ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

Farmers spent the week cleaning up trees following Irene. Corn harvest started again in earnest during the middle of the week following power restoration. Irene caused some lodging in the corn and soybean crops, but yield losses to the corn crop appear to be relatively small in most fields.

MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

Hurricane Irene dumped over 10 inches of rain over some parts of area. Lee and Katia should bring more. Soybeans love the moisture. Most insect and disease problems in soybeans are behind us now with exception of late season things brought in by hurricanes. Yield potential is very good to excellent. Corn survived the hurricane pretty well but will not stand a lot more wind. Maturation process was sped up by the hurricane. Yields for corn have been good to very good. Some damage to corn and cotton occurred during Irene. Not a lot of structural or equipment damage. Vegetables are winding down. A few late tomatoes and peppers are still around. Watermelon and sweet potato harvest continues. Pumpkins look good but seem earlier than normal.

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

Comments are based on comments reported by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

SOUTHWESTERN

GRAYSON (Kevin Spurlin)

Exceptionally hot weather in the last week has matured the corn crop very quickly. Corn got ready quicker than some farmers were anticipating and silage harvest is gearing up frantically. Friday storms brought wind damage to the eastern side of the county with only minor crop damage reported. Tree damage and power outages were more common and a few farm structures had minor damage as well.

SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)

Dry conditions are beginning to show effects on pasture and crops. Any moisture would be of benefit, however spring and summer rains have definitely made for an overall good year.

SOUTHERN

CHARLOTTE (Bob Jones)

Charlotte had some minor damage to the tobacco crop from the hurricane but not enough to kick in a disaster status.

LUNENBURG (Bob Jones)

Lunenburg did receive substantial damage to the flue cured tobacco crop from the hurricane and will seek a disaster declaration.

NOTTOWAY (Jimmy Gantt)

Hurricane Irene blew approximately 60% of the tobacco crop into a moderate to heavy lean. Wind damage to the leaves was only 5 to 10%. The main problem will be the inability to use mechanical harvesters in a large portion of the Flue crop.

SOUTHEASTERN

BRUNSWICK (Cynthia L. Gregg)

Many producers spent this past week cleaning up after Hurricane Irene. They also spent quite a bit of time trying to salvage crops in the fields: setting up tobacco, trying to save what was in the barns and cutting trees from farm roads. Some producers ran generators as the power was off to some until this past Saturday, but most seemed to have power back by Thursday. They have also been fixing fences and gates to insure livestock stayed in fields.

PRINCE GEORGE (Scott Reiter)

Hurricane Irene has definitely affected crops across the county. Corn and cotton are most affected with down and tangled plants. Harvest will be a real chore and some crop will just not make it into the combine or picker. Tobacco was not destroyed as feared but quality will likely suffer from damaged leaves and advancing maturity. Soybeans suffered some wind damage and lodging but really needed the rain. Corn earworms continue to be treated sporadically in double crop fields. Peanuts benefited from the rains however disease increases are of concern. Late season squash, cucumbers, and tomatoes took a real beating.

SOUTHAMPTON (John Rudy)

It took to about mid-week to get into fields due to wet areas. Framers have been busy removing downed trees and repairing fences damaged by Hurricane Irene. Also been busy getting to the corn which was blown down. They have been able to save some of the downed corn. Some structural damages were noted in the county but overall most was superficial. Recovery efforts will continue over the next few weeks.

SURRY (Glenn Slade)

Hurricane Irene gave us 8-12 inches of rain with moderate wind damage. There were lots of power outages due to limbs and trees on lines, but structure damage was not as bad as expected. Some tin and shingles came off and there was some greenhouse damage. I estimate corn and cotton losses at 20% due to leaning and tangled crops. Peanut and soybean yields will be improved since they needed the rain.

SUSSEX (Kelvin Wells)

Rainfall has been plentiful for our area. Corn harvest is moving along since the storm last weekend with good yields reported. Growers continue to scout peanuts for diseases and late planted soybeans for worms.

CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence)

Hurricane Irene dropped about 10-inches of rain and strong winds, but no structural damage was done to buildings or grain bins. About 15% of the corn not harvested (2/3rds) is expected to be unharvestable. Soybeans were not affected adversely because of the low water table and the ability of rain to quickly recede into the ground, canals, and rivers. Farmers are resuming corn harvest quickly as corn has matured earlier than usual this year. Yields are above what was expected previously.



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